

Ricky W. Benson
Three Springs, 38

Ricky W. Benson, 38, Three Springs, died early Saturday morning, October 25, 2008, as a result of injuries sustained in an auto accident along Fort Littleton Road, Springfield Township.

Born August 20, 1970, in Huntingdon, he was a son of Jean K. (Snyder) Benson of Orbisonia, and the late Larry C. Benson. He was married to the former Brenda L. Shingler July 15, 1995. She survives at their home.

Also surviving are four children: Andrew, Matthew, Emily and Kailee Benson, all at home; three brothers and a sister, Robert Benson, Mount Union; Gary Benson, Allentown; Lucas Snyder, Three Springs; and Teresa Chapman, Shade Gap.

He had attended Three Springs Assembly of God Church.

He had been employed at JLG Industries Inc., McConnellsburg, since 1988 as a supervisor.

Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, November 6, at Martin R. Brown Funeral Home, Orbisonia. Rev. Stuart Tayne officiated. Burial was made in Old School Baptist Cemetery, Three Springs.

George D. Bishop
McConnellsburg, 53

George D. Bishop, 53, McConnellsburg, died Friday, November 7, 2008, at Hershey Medical Center.

He was born in McConnellsburg, January 14, 1955, the son of the late Virgil and Ruby J. (Johnson) Bishop. He was the husband of Stephanie "Deb" M. (Alassandrini) Bishop.

He was a mechanic for Fulton Motor Sales, McConnellsburg, in his earlier years and then was employed by PennDOT as a mechanic. He was a member of VFW Post 655, McConnellsburg, American Legion Post 561, McConnellsburg, Fulton Honor Guard, served in the U.S. Army as a PV2 in the Vietnam War era and he also loved demolition derbies.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his daughter: Stacy Bishop, Saxton; son Denny Bishop, Saxton; stepdaughters: Gerri A. Ramsey, McConnellsburg; Jenny T. Abbott, Hyndman; stepsons: Robert J. Will, McConnellsburg; James A. Will, McConnellsburg; Charlie M. (husband of Heather) Will, Harrisonville; sisters: Martha Shoemaker, Big Cove Tannery; Helen Gracey, Waterfall; Mildred Truax, McConnellsburg; Lois Cough, Hummelstown; Elena Seiders, Middletown, Pa.; Nancy Bryner, Berkeley Springs; brothers: Calvin Bishop, Hagerstown; John Bishop, McConnellsburg; Charles Bishop, McConnellsburg; Harold Bishop, McConnellsburg; and eight grandsons.

He was preceded in death by a brother, William Allen Bishop; and two sisters: Dorothy Jean Bishop and Mary Jane Fetters.

Funeral services were held at Howard L. Sipes Funeral Home Inc., McConnellsburg, at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday, November 12. Pastor Lyle Mellott and Father Allen Thomas officiated. Burial was private and at the convenience of the family. Military services were conducted by Fulton Honor Guard.

Memorial contributions may be made in memory of George Bishop to the Leukemia Society Central Region, 800 Corporate Circle, Suite 100, Harrisburg, PA 17110.

Howard L. Sipes Funeral Home Inc., McConnellsburg, was in charge of arrangements.

Loren A. Chaney
McConnellsburg, 60

Loren Allen Chaney, 60, McConnellsburg, died Tuesday, November 4, 2008, at his residence.

He was born in Saxton, June 19, 1948, the son of the late A. Francis and Charlotte (Moore) Chaney. He was the husband of Normalee Chaney.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a daughter, Tracie S. Kershaw, McConnellsburg; a brother,

Barry F. Chaney, Martinsburg, Pa., and two grandsons.

Funeral services and interment were private and at the convenience of the family. Howard L. Sipes Funeral Home Inc., McConnellsburg, was in charge of arrangements.

John F. Fisher
Tonawanda, N.Y., 76

John F. Fisher, 76, died Friday, November 7, 2008, in the town of Tonawanda, N.Y.

He was born December 27, 1931, the son of the late Jessie Conaway and the stepson of the late William Conaway.

Surviving are his wife, Katherine Fisher; one son, John C. Fisher; four step-children: Jennifer, Chris (Paul), Michelle (Joe), and David; four grandchildren: Justin (Jaime), Clayton (Brittany), Courtney and Casie; and one great-grandchild, Paige; three brothers: William H., Samuel (Phyllis) and Arthur (Ruth) Conaway; and one sister, Sharon (David) Smith.

Funeral services were held Monday, November 10, 2008, at 1:00 p.m., at Kelso-Cornelius Funeral Home, Inc., McConnellsburg. Interment was held at Union Cemetery. Online condolences may be expressed at www.kelso-corneliusfuneralhome.com

Edna S. MacGregor
McConnellsburg, 73

Edna S. (Wallis) MacGregor, 73, died October 31, 2008, at Fulton County Medical Center, following a long, courageous battle with cancer.

She was the wife of the late Milton MacGregor. She was born in Lynn, Mass., on April 28, 1935, daughter of the late Elbridge and Emma (Bradstreet) Wallis.

She lived in Albans, N.Y., Irving, Texas, and Libertyville, Ill., before moving to McConnellsburg 25 years ago.

She had a passion for collecting owl figurines. Her real passion was the American Cancer Society. She volunteered for the Relay For Life for the last 10 years. Her most recent job was an attendant for the Carbaugh Coin Laundry.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Elbridge Wallis Jr. and a sister, Mildred Twitchell.

Surviving are a son, Barry MacGregor and his wife, Lisa, of Grande Prairie, Texas; two grandchildren: Jason MacGregor and his wife, Karyl, of Arlington, Texas, and Cameo MacGregor of Grand Prairie, Texas; two great-grandchildren: Scotland and Selah MacGregor of Arlington, Texas; two sisters: Barbara Walker of McConnellsburg and Patricia Teague and her husband John of Lynn, Mass.; two brothers: George Wallis and his wife, Carol, of Lynn, Mass., and Luther Wallis and his wife, Joyce, of Lakeville, Mass.; a brother-in-law, Elmer Twitchell of Beverly, Mass.; several nieces and nephews; and two very dear close friends: Carol Smith and Connie Strait of McConnellsburg.

At her request, there will be no funeral services. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Arrangements entrusted to Auer Memorial Home and Cremation Services, Inc., Harrisburg, Pa.

Workers Put Down Roots

A rough housing market gives rise to relocation resistance

By Marilyn Gardner
STAFF WRITER OF
THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

As a resident of Philadelphia for 20 years, Scott Clinton has established deep roots. So when the transport company where he works as a mechanical engineer announced that it will relocate to Greenville, S.C., at the end of the year, he decided not to go.

"I'm very committed to our church, our family, our friends, our community," Clinton says. "We're just not interested in picking up and moving." Instead, he is looking for a new job. Most of the firm's 67 workers are doing the same.

In decades past, employees like Clinton were more willing to relocate, either to accept a transfer or to take a job with a different employer.

Today greater independence prevails. People are more likely to say no to a move, citing a sluggish real estate market, a spouse's job, or even a divorce settlement that restricts parental moves.

Back in the days of frequent relocations, people joked that IBM was shorthand for "I've Been Moved." Transfers usually meant advancing to the next rung on the corporate ladder. That is still the case for some. But for others, like Clinton, relocating might simply mean doing the same job in a new city.

"No one is saying if you move you'll get a promotion," Clinton says. "My company has decided they want to move to a low-cost-labor part of the country to save money. That doesn't talk to my interests."

Only 13 percent of job seekers finding positions in the third quarter of 2008 moved for their new job, according to outplacement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas. That is down from 15 percent in 2007 and 16 percent in 2006.

"We are seeing a lot of moves that are delayed or canceled because of the financial concerns people have," says Joseph Benevides, senior vice president of Paragon Global Resources, a relocation service. "The big impediment is the price of housing in the home they're leaving. The house is worth less than they paid for it or worth less than they owe. That is the principal reason relocations are being refused, certainly surpassing family."

Relocations are also taking longer. "The time has extended pretty dramatically in the last 12 months or so," Benevides says. That creates a need for duplicate housing as transferees maintain their existing home while accruing living expenses in a new location. Benevides calls it "a major cost issue."

To spur moves, some employers are offering "loss on sale" protection. If a house sells for less than the purchase price, a company covers the loss.

Sellers are also getting help in marketing their homes. The new real estate mantra is: condition, con-

dition, condition. "There are many more sellers of homes than buyers," Benevides explains. "People are going to be looking for a home in the best condition."

For recent college graduates without mortgages and children, the picture is different. Eighty-five percent would relocate for a job, according to a survey by Experience Inc. Seventy percent would consider moving abroad.

Even so, a third say a high cost of living could be a factor in turning down a stellar job opportunity.

Lee Ann Fleming, a publicist in Denver, finds that some professionals cannot relocate because they are divorced with children. As the divorced mother of an 11-year-old, she has turned down two job offers that would have required her to move out of state.

"I share custody of my son with my ex-husband, and he has made it clear that he would fight me in court for full custody if I were to move," Ms. Fleming says. "So I stay, although either of those positions would have made a big difference to my career."

Some career specialists caution that workers who stay put do so at their peril.

"My career counseling clients who refuse to move often limit their career advancement," says Robin Ryan, a career consultant. "Unemployed people dramatically drag out their search if they refuse to go where the jobs are. Often you'll stop your rise in your own company and need to move on to a new one to continue getting a promotion."

But workers such as Clinton are willing to take that risk. "I'm not terribly concerned about being left high and dry," he says. "I have skills. I'm even optimistic that I'll find something I'm very excited about."

Gregory Cushion, an IT worker in Pittsburgh, takes a similar approach. In recent weeks he has turned down three job offers that would have required a move to more expensive cities.

"I've got to sell a home," he says. "Given the fact that I have to find a comparable house, how far do I have to travel to get to work? I have to consider commuting time and gas prices."

He must also consider his wife's career. "If she has to quit her job and move, we lose that income," Cushion says. "When a company offers me a job to go somewhere else, they would have to compensate me for the amount of risk I'm taking that my wife will find a comparable job."

Yet ask Cushion if he would relocate if the financial aspects were favorable and he responds, "Absolutely."

Last month, Karren Jeske's entire seven-person department at a biotech firm in Wisconsin turned down a move to the company's headquarters in New Jersey. She explains her own reasons by noting that houses in her neighborhood are taking two years to sell. Her husband also owns a museum-exhibit-design business in the area. She adds, "When times are tough, being

close to friends and family makes everything brighter." She now works for a marketing firm in Milwaukee.

To keep a refusal from becoming a career liability, Ms. Jeske says, "Start looking when you first get wind that your job may be relocated. Build and maintain relationships in your industry. Work hard and do good work so people won't hesitate to recommend you. Be honest and tell people why you decided not to take the relocation offer. Above all, be optimistic."

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